

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/699,584	MESSERSMITH ET AL.
	Examiner Rosanne Kosson	Art Unit 1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to an amendment filed on November 17, 2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 40-42.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

1. The application has been amended as follows.

The abstract is amended as follows.

The invention is related to [[B]]biomimetic gels that are prepared enzymatically via enzymatic preparation, using a transglutaminase to cross-link polymer-peptide conjugates of rational design.

The claims are amended as follows.

40. (currently amended) A biomimetic gelation system comprising:

- a) a first polymeric component conjugated to at least one acyl donor peptide, wherein the at least one donor peptide ~~one of each said peptides~~ comprises at least two contiguous glutamyl residues;
- b) a second polymeric component conjugated to at least one acyl acceptor peptide, wherein the at least one acceptor peptide ~~one of each said peptides~~ comprises a lysine residue; and
- c) a transglutaminase; wherein ~~said acyl donor peptide is conjugated to a first polymeric component and said acyl acceptor peptide is conjugated to a second polymeric component;~~ and at least one of said first and second polymeric components comprises poly(ethylene glycol).

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given by telephone by Applicants' agent, Ms. Ann Rabe, on December 18, 2006.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. As previously discussed, the prior art does not reasonably teach or suggest a biomimetic gelation system

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comprising a polymeric acyl donor peptide comprising at least two contiguous glutaminyl residues, a polymeric acyl acceptor peptide comprising a lysine residue, and transglutaminase in which at least one of the polymers comprises PEG. The prior art does not reasonably teach or suggest adding a PEG component to polypeptides containing at least two contiguous glutaminyl residues or a lysine residue and that are linked by transglutaminase to form a biomimetic gel. See Sperinde et al., discussed below, who disclose PEG-based hydrogels for cell and tissue culture that are linked by transglutaminase, but who do not disclose polymers containing PEG and K or PEG and two contiguous Q residues.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rosanne Kosson whose telephone number is 571-272-2923. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-6:00, alternate Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private

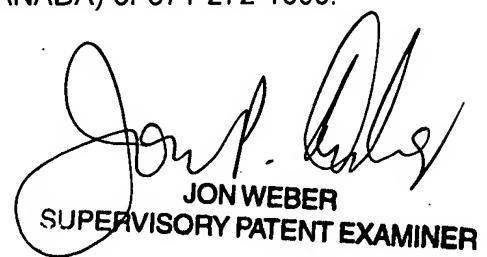
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PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Rosanne Kosson
Examiner, Art Unit 1652

rk/2006-12-18

Rosanne Kosson



JON WEBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER